AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

~~[c1]~~ 1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a drill bit body, comprising: infiltrating powdered tungsten carbide with a binder alloy in a mold, the mold having therein at least one displacement adapted to form a mounting pad for a cutting element, the displacement comprising a substantially cylindrical body having a diameter selected to substantially conform to a radius of the cutting element and a projection adapted to form a relief groove under a position of a diamond table in the cutting element when the cutting element is mounted on the pad, a width of the relief groove selected so that the relief groove extends back from an outer surface of the bit body at least about 40 percent of that portion of a thickness of the diamond table which does not extend past the outer surface.

~~[c2]~~ 2. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the cutting element comprises a tungsten carbide substrate, the substrate brazed to the mounting pad.

~~[c3]~~ 3. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one displacement comprises a castable material formed into a single body.

~~[c4]~~ 4. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the projection extends past an external surface of the displacement by about 0.025 inches.

[c5] – [c11] (Cancelled)

~~[c12]~~ 12. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a drill bit body, comprising: infiltrating powdered tungsten carbide with a binder alloy in a mold, the mold having therein at least one displacement adapted to form a mounting pad for a cutting element, the displacement being made from a single component comprising a substantially cylindrical body having a diameter

selected to substantially conform to a radius of the cutting element and a projection adapted to form a relief groove under a position of a diamond table in the cutting element when the cutting element is mounted on the pad.

~~[c13]~~ 13. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 12 wherein the relief groove has a depth of about 0.025 inches.

~~[c14]~~ 14. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 12 wherein the relief groove extends back from an outer surface of the blade at least about 40 percent of that portion of a thickness of the diamond table which does not extend past the outer surface.